

Action Item

*Governmental Relations Committee*

Approval of the Minutes of the June 5, 2001, Meetings

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# MINUTES

## *Governmental Relations Committee*

Meeting of June 5, 2001

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**Committee members present** Howard Welinsky, *Chair*  
Evonne Seron Schulze, *Vice Chair*  
Robert A. Hanff  
Lance Izumi  
Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr.  
Olivia K. Singh  
Alan S. Arkatov, *ex officio*  
Carol Chandler, *ex officio*

**Other Commissioners present**  
Susan Hammer  
Kyo "Paul" Jhin  
Velma Montoya  
Ralph R. Pesqueira  
Melinda G. Wilson

**Committee member absent** Phillip J. Forhan

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**Call to order** Committee Chair Howard Welinsky convened the Governmental Relations Committee at 12:21 p.m.

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**Approval of the minutes** A motion was made to adopt the minutes of the committee meeting on April 3, 2001. It was moved, seconded and approved without dissent to adopt the minutes.

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**Legislative and budget update, June 2001** Mr. Kevin Woolfork stated that both houses have passed the budget and they are currently involved with the legislative budget conference committee to resolve outstanding budget issues. He provided information detailing the challenges facing the conference committee with regard to producing a balanced budget this year. He explained that, of the 400 items considered to that point, 275 have been left open. The committee was also considering some broader issues.

Director Fox asked if the State reserve issue is dominating the conference committee. Mr. Woolfork replied that this issue is one of many with which the conferees were dealing. He added that the Republican leadership has stated its position as wanting a budget reserve of \$3 or \$4 billion. Mr. Woolfork stated that issues in regard to Proposition 98 had also been challenging.

Chair Arkatov asked about the issues associated with proposition 98 and community colleges. Mr. Woolfork reviewed handout-material that showed a change from the estimate of where the Prop 98 guarantee was in January versus where it is in the Governor's May revision. He then detailed the many components of the Prop 98 formula, the role Prop 98 plays, and how the funding, as proposed, would to be applied.

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**Legislative  
highlights**

Marge Chisholm informed the Commission that there are 13 bills this year that call upon the Commission to perform some duties above and beyond what is already required. They are:

- ♦ AB 1720 and AB 1721, sponsored by the Commission, and have passed out of the Assembly Appropriations Committee to the Assembly Floor.
- ♦ SB 216 (McPherson), calling on the Commission to prepare a strategic plan for language development, has passed the Senate floor and is now in the Assembly.
- ♦ SB 326 (Scott) is a spot bill that would require the Commission to conduct a community college transfer report. Action will be delayed until next year.
- ♦ SB 379 (Alarcon), requesting the Commission to conduct a study about the socioeconomic status, geographic region and high school preparation of students, has passed the Senate Appropriations Committee. Funding of \$400,00 is provided. The bill is expected to undergo significant revision and further information on it will be forthcoming.
- ♦ SB 434 (Monteith), a bill to promote access to students in remote areas, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee, however the funding was deleted.
- ♦ SB 517 (Torlakson), which would require the Commission to expand the facilities review function to include the consideration the development of facilities for joint use, passed the Senate floor and will be going to the Assembly.
- ♦ SB 554 (Vasconcellos), calling on the Commission to develop a master plan for Service Learning, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee and will go to the Senate Floor.
- ♦ SB 631 (Polanco), a new bill which has been expanded to provide for a reciprocal program and allow students from out of state and out of the country to attend California schools and California students to attend out of country and out-of-state colleges at resident fees passed the Senate Appropriations Committee and will be going to the Senate Floor. The Commission would be charged with developing a proposal for the reciprocal program.
- ♦ SB 664 (Poochigian), a bill which calls upon the Commission to conduct a review and analysis of California community college nursing programs with regard to their admission procedures and the attrition rates for the two-year programs, has passed the Senate Appropriations Committee and will go to the Senate Floor.
- ♦ SB 894 (Scott), a bill which creates the Community College Leadership Institute, was reduced from \$1.5 million to \$900,000, with \$50,000 for the Commission to do the evaluation. This bill has passed the Senate Appropriations Committee and will go to the Senate Floor.
- ♦ SB 1061 (Alarcon), a bill calling on the Regents of the University of California to report about union activities and requiring the Commission to conduct an annual

report and status report on labor relations at UC, has passed the Senate Appropriations Committee and will go to the Senate Floor.

- ♦ SB 1118 (Margett), a bill involving the Commission to consult with the Department of Education on a pamphlet that tells students about admissions requirements and financial aid, has passed the Senate Appropriations.

Ms. Chisholm updated the Commission on the matrix 2001-2002 Legislative Bills with special emphasis on the new bills. The new bills are as follows:

AB 484 (Runner) - staff recommends support

AB 726 (Correa) - staff recommends maintaining a support position

AB 1722 (Assembly Higher Education Committee) - staff recommends a watch position

AB 631 (Polanco) - staff recommends a watch position

SB 664 (Poochigian) - staff recommends support

SB 782 (Brulte) - staff recommends support, if amended

SB 1061 (Alarcon) - staff recommends an oppose position

SB 1118 (Margett) - staff recommends a support position

SB 1191 (Speier) - staff recommends a support position

SB 1216 (Romero) - staff recommends support, if amended

Chair Arkatov noted that AB 792 (Kehoe), the bill that returns student fees to the 1991-92 level, would have a tremendous financial impact on the State, in the amount of \$100 million or more. He urged the Commission to maintain a “watch” position on the bill.

Commissioner Rodriguez moved the adoption of the staff’s recommendation on the added bills to the matrix, including the adjustments. The motion was seconded and adopted without dissent.

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**Federal update,  
June 2001**

Karl M. Engelbach presented this information item to the Commission.

Mr. Engelbach noted that the US House of Representatives passed its version of the re-authorization of the Elementary And Secondary Education Act (ESEA). He stated that it continues to include annual testing of students in grades 3-8. Once the Senate has passed its version of the act, the issue will go to a conference committee. He said that both houses have passed budget resolutions, and that the budget appropriations committees are meeting to discuss the specific appropriation levels for programs in the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Engelbach reported that Senator Jeffords will no longer be affiliated with the Republican Party. Mr. Engelbach explained that as a result of Senator Jefford’s decision

there would be a number of changes that will occur in terms of committee membership. He reported that Senator Ted Kennedy would become the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

Mr. Fox noted that State Higher Education Executive Officers have been working to preserve the role of higher education in the ESEA re-authorization bill.

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**Adjournment**    Having no further business, Chair Welinski adjourned the Governmental Relations Committee meeting at 12:57 p.m.

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